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September 13, 1968

SECRETARY'S EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Subject: Senate vote on NPT

Senator Sparkman believes that, if the NPT could be brought to a vote, they could muster two-thirds. Senator Mansfield apparently feels the same way as he has privately stated that an effort should be made to get the Treaty out of the Committee. Senator Cooper's office tells us that while almost all Republican Senators now favor delay, very few would actually vote against the Treaty on the merits.

We have been asked a number of times whether the Administration really favored action this year. Today's Washington POST editorial is not helpful in this regard. We believe that the positions of a number of Senate Democrats on the question of delay will be influenced by the degree of Administration support for action this year.

With this in mind, I recommend a strong statement from the President that the Treaty should be approved by the Senate despite Czechoslovakia.

William C. Foster

ACDA/GC:MChristopher:GBunz  
ACDA/DD:ESFisher:jc:9/13/68

DECLASSIFIED BY/RELEASE AUTHORITY:  
KATHY ALLEGRONE, SENIOR REVIEWER  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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